



PATENT APPLICATION

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: Stolte et al.

Docket No.: 10034.542

Date: July 29, 2009

Application No.: 10/576,645

Filed: March 9, 2007

Art Unit: 3644

Examiner: T. Nguyen

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY STARTING A MILKING PROCESS

Certificate of Mailing

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On July 29, 2009

Signature Jeffry W. Smith

Jeffry W. Smith, Reg. No. 33455
Name of Applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT WITH TRAVERSE AND SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to a May 29, 2009 restriction requirement in which the examiner identified three groups of claims subject to restriction as follows:

Group I – claims 1 to 12 are drawn to a milking machine cylinder.

Group II – claims 13, 14, 16 to 22 are drawn to a milking unit cylinder.

Group III – claims 24 to 26 are drawn to a method for automatically starting a milking process.

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To traverse the restriction requirement, Applicants amend herein, independent claim 1 to correct an obvious error in the preamble and to add an element that renders all of the pending claims a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, as described in more detail in the Remarks section below.

This response is timely filed because it is accompanied by a One-Month Extension of Time and the appropriate fee.